The Daily and Weekly Commercial.—
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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIV.—NO. 15. WEEKLY EDITION. FEBRUARY 20, 1875.

The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, corner Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, opposite Postoffice.
RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 3 cents; delivered by carriers (at 15 cents per week) 15 cents; by mail (per year), $10 00, postage pre-paid.

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The money must always accompany the order, and in no instance can these terms be deviated from.

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LENT.

The following quaint Lenten poem was written by the rare old poet, Robert Herrick. Though written more than two hundred years ago, the lines point a moral as valuable now as it was then:

Is this a fast, to keep
The larder leane,
And cleane
From fat of veale and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an houre,
Or ragged to go,
Or show
A down-cast look and soure?

No: this a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat,
And meat,
Unto the hungry soule.

It is to fast from strife
From old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life;

To show a *heart* grief rent,
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

ROBIN.

The dead ferns o'er the thin crisp snow
Are rustling in the winter breeze,
And one mute bird flits to and fro
Between these clumps of mid-r trees.
A robin! What! has summer's proudest
And sweetest singer come to this!
His carol was of June's the loudest—
A rapturous lay of love and bliss!
But desolate and voiceless now,
He lingers in the wood alone,
Haunts the swamp ash-tree's frosty bough,
And perks the sumac's faded cone,
And in the bitter night he hides where
Thick hemlock shield him from the air.
Long since his mates of summer flight
When first the yellow leaves were shot:
Now in the sun the fields gleam white,
Around he nest the tough winds blow;
Yet with weak heart he shrinks from flight,
And stays, although he longs to go.
Too cheerless and too cold to sing,
He tarries still and waits for spring!

THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

BY EDITH BROWN NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER VIII.

How I reached home that dreadful night I scarcely know. I have a dim recollection of somebody putting me into the carriage; of a nervous voice so old and cracked I did not recognize it as mamma's, bidding me "keep calm and for God's sake don't make an exposure before the servants." But nothing stands forth clearly till I find myself in my dressing room crouched up like a frozen animal before the blazing fire, trying to warm my hands, which are cold, and shaking as though I had an ague fit, and trying, ah! how vainly, to warm my frozen heart as well. Julie stands over me pleturesque in all her emotions, as usual deploring, beseeching, consoling, murmured all like sympathy and curiosity regarding Mademoiselle's strange words and actions. Summoning up all my pride, with Aunt Flavia's last entreaty in my ears, not to expose myself, and laughing to stifle choking sobs, I staggered to the door, though I could hardly stand.

"Where is Mademoiselle going?" demanded the girl, wonderingly.

I was fumbling at the handle of the door, and held on to it as I answered:

"I lost something in the carriage when I came in. I must go and look for it."

It was the first trivial excuse I could forge to hide my real intention. It deserved to be frustrated.

"Is it the bracelet fine the good papa send, or the little ring *gage d'amour?*" she demanded; her g dgy wits but ready sympathies divining instantly that a sentiment lay at the root of my depression.

In my present mood, how cruel a stab these careless, frivolous words unconsciously inflicted. Julie had called my *gage d'amour* that night, but it was no jeweled bracelet, the gift of an unloving parent; it was not the poor little ring that, in the first days of folly, I had had forced upon me. Ah me! it was faith in an ideal of truth, and honor, and nobility, that I had set up with the image of a first unhappy love.

"Yes, *ma petite,*" I answered with a ghastly smile, looking curiously into her pretty, thoughtless eyes; "I have lost something which you can never find for Mademoiselle, and which she will never, in this false world, find, I fear, again for her own. Julie, if the thing you prize the most—say that pearl pin I gave you yesterday, what would you do?"

She gave a shrug of resignation.

"*Que voulez vous?* I can put up the little prayer to my patron saint for its so happy restoration."

"But if all the long prayers and tears in the world would not restore your pearl, but long years afterwards you found it, but crushed under your foot, so bruised and broken in its setting that half its value was gone, what then would you do?"

I persisted, feeling a foolish eagerness to hear her unconscious replies to my sad allegory.

"Eh, my faith, but it is easy," she responded briskly. "I would take him up, my pretty pearl, to the jeweler, and find for him another fine setting in the good time, but not throw him down so, and she made an expressive gesture of repudiation with her little foot. "For it is the souvenir, *voyez vous*, and I can prize it still in the heart for what it was before."

This prattle sank into my bitter and forlorn mood like a soothing balm. I had been Del. herself, while she talked. "Young people possess a charming exaggeration of ideas that the sober *seniors* cannot always allow for perhaps; but granting all that, is there any *reason* in Celestia Doolittle going into a *nunnery* or a misanthropic vein simply because an unfortunate adventurer is discovered in time? Child, be still; no wonder I hurt you then."

A most fearful wrench, indeed, she had given my unfortunate head then, owing to the impetuosity with which I recoiled from her; but that was nothing to the wrench she got to my unfortunate heart.

"Let me be, I don't. I won't, send me more," I cried, pettish as a child. With customary tact she pretended to misunderstand the cause of my emotion.

"Did I hurt the pretty little willful head, then?" she cried, most tenderly passing her hand over my maltreated cranium. "Letty, I'll never forgive myself for such brutality. Heu, would send me for an hour for such awkwardness, and so may you."

"I don't wish to scold anybody but myself for my mistakes," I replied, wearily; "for I am always making them."

"Then make no more," she cried, with such a sudden excitement in her tranquil nature that I looked up surprised.

"Letty, I never loved anyone much better than I do this very pleasant world you are ungrateful enough to hate, but I loved your brother and I shall do all in my power to save her dear little wrong-headed daughter." There was more nature in her voice and manner than I had ever seen in the girl in my life, and I wavered for a moment in my dread of her numerous subtilities and reputation for finesse. Doubtless she had been my unhappy mother's chief counselor, but with what hapless results? I only shrank at the idea of making her mine. Did she detect this momentary hesitation in my face that she so instantly prepared to deepen the impression?

Resuming her arrangement of my hair with redoubled gentleness, she went on reading me her worldly lesson with an air of the most disinterested benevolence.

"It has been palpable to us all, Letty, love, that a change has come over you lately. Why do you blush? I do not wonder at or blame you, considering the insidious influences that have been brought to bear upon you. How is the world all that we have ever gain an *entree* into your father's house?"

"Because he was my father's friend, Madam."

O, foolish infatuation that even yet sprang hotly forth to ardently defend a traitor friend! O, foolish heart that yet acted with such ingenuity for his dishonor! Among every false and hollow circumstance of my daily life he had glassed his image true and tender, lofty and pure as the per fect knight Sir Galahad. Like some new Quixote, I had looked upon him coming into my society life, endeavoring to redeem it to some good, had even saved one poor thoughtless butterflies that had crossed across his path. I had been affected both to tears and smiles, by his brave simplicity of nature, and had greeted with delight his praises from many a humble source he little knew I had traced. I felt before he had been with us a week as though he would do me good, not harm, all the days of his life; and this man I was bidden to hold henceforth as an adventurer, a pretender to false virtues, the assassin of my mother and life long implied against her child's peace. Thinking all these things, I replied to Mrs. Drummond's last question with burning cheeks and proud defiant voice.

But nowhere in the record of her friends or foes would any one admit they had ever seen Mrs. Drummond's self-command passion moved. Lifting her brows with a mute expression of regret for my blindness, she persevered, sure of succeeding in the end, disarming with a sinking heart, was sure of it, too.

"Your father's friend, Letty, this man cannot be; but of course he feigns that to you because he could not else gain your confidence. Have you any assurance to that effect from papa about Felix Featherstone? Of course you have. Is astonishing Flavia could be so deceived."

"Let me ask her that; I ought to have asked her before"—and I started eagerly to my feet.

"Patience," said my mother's confidant, holding me gently back as I was hastening to the door; "Your aunt, with whom I saw this morning, is not in a condition to bear the least excitement. The late discoveries have quite unhinged her."

Now, this last piece of information shed on my bewildered brain a new belief that Aunt Flavia and I were *both* the victims of some schemer. I say *some* schemer, for all through Mrs. Drummond's fine-hand, flattering, I could not give him the honored name of Dr. Felix.

"Poor Auntie! how cross I have often been to her of late," I said, with a quivering lip, and an earnest yearning to "make up," like a child, now that I was so miserable. "Auntie will be nervous, and she will not hurt her to see me a few minutes, unless she is very sick."

"It would not be wise, Letty. It is a severe shock of various sorts, nothing, but faithful creature, Minette, understands how to take care of her better than us all. Why, she would hardly let me in a minute. Has she not been all but a perfect treasure of a maid to your poor mother and aunt, both."

"I am aware of it, but I never liked her," I answered, with the same unaccountable shudder that I always greeted the vicinity of worms or toads, or any crawling thing. I always avoided the *trait* in my aunt's coldly selfish nature. Few people believe in such antipathies. God knows I had reason afterwards to believe in mine.

"You are as contrary as a child still, I see, in your likes and dislikes," said Mrs. Drummond, pinching my cheek; "but now, Letty love, bring a little common sense into your distress, instead of all this romance about ideal excellences and ideal friends, and you will soon find the wisdom of blaming me for telling a sad story of the past in order to unveil an imposter."

"Oh, *don't.*"

Hinting that foolish plea for grace, she proceeded with cheerful composure.

"I see you have doubts even yet of the identity of the would-be reformer of men and details, Felix Featherstone and the doctor of damaged reputation, who dares not show his head in certain New York circles, even now, after the lapse of many years, though they are in search of a young and generous girl, like yourself, and will disappear, I feel sure, before one strong proof that you hold within your own possession of a pretended friend's duplicity."

"I have none," I replied proudly. "What he has been, alas! I cannot deny, for I have no authority to defend; but what he was yesterday I know—the best and noblest hearted gentleman."

"Very prettily and enthusiastically expressed, my dear," the torturer replied; watching my emotion much as our velvet-footed feline pet, Rover, will wait for his victim's struggles to cease, but will not so easy if I bring your friend himself to acknowledge that he forged, for his own purposes, the only letter you have ever received in the name of your unhappy father?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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Edward Dolph, a coal owner of Carbondale, offers to invest $200,000 in the Poughkeepsie bridge and $100,000 in the road westward.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 11, 1875.

The following bills were reported favorably from committees: The Judicial Salaries bill [It leaves salaries as at present]; To repeal the act of last year relative to county treasurers; Authorizing appeals from assessments; To declare the intent of the 63th section of the Penal Code; Providing for the transfer of arbitrators' awards and liens thereon; For the formation of wharf companies; Regulating the form of writs in suits against the State; House bill fixing the terms of city ward and township officers' terms; To provide for the refunding and redemption of municipal indebtedness; Enabling assignees to sell encumbered estates.

The bill relative to streets in boroughs was reported negatively.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Jones—To cancel claims of the Penn estate.

Mr. Chalfant—To empower courts to change borough limits.

Mr. Bechtel—Supplement to the election law.

Mr. Anderson, of Crawford—To authorize State banks to surrender their charters and become national.

Mr. Cooper—Authorizing cities of the third class to regulate sewer charges.

Mr. Rutan—For the removal of county seats.

Mr. Alexander—For the formation of new counties.

Mr. Jones—To establish industrial schools. [This is not to teach trades, but for the education of the poor and friendless.]

Mr. Jones—To extend the Corporation act to improvement companies.

The bill to permit defendants in criminal cases to testify was discussed at length. The Senate defeated Mr. McKinley's amendment to strike out "testify" and insert "make a statement"—yeas 10, nays 34. The bill goes over.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The following passed second reading: Defining the limitation of prosecutions for forgery; To authorize a change of venue in criminal cases.

The following passed first reading: Compulsory Education law; Amendments to the Constitution; For the incorporation of banks; Providing a remedy for irregularities in sealing, &c., of jury wheels; Making judgment notes negotiable; Pipe Line bill [A motion to recommit was lost—yeas 19, nays 11]; To authorize the binding of minors out of the State; To authorize chattel mortgages; To prevent cattle from running at large; Providing for the inspection of timber; Relative to insolvent bail for stay of execution; To validate municipal bonds issued for value; To prevent the dodling of ice; For holding separate courts where there are more than one law judge; Relative to executors and trustees; Allowing trustees; Allowing divorces for lunacy; Fixing the pay of township officers; Relating to acts of foreign notaries; Relative to acknowledgments of deeds; Exempting with a sinking heart, was sure of it, too.

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HOUSE.

In the House the following bills passed second reading: Senate supplement relating to partnership associations; Act authorizing compulsory non-suits; Repealing the proviso in section 1 of the Act relating to the maintenance of soldiers' orphans; Exempting soldiers receiving pensions from *per capita* and occupation taxes; Authorizing burgesses and town councils to levy an additional gas and water tax; Removing disabilities of aliens in real estate transactions; Fixing the compensation of arbitrators; Authorizing the holding of Upham's courts, in certain cases, by other judges.

The Senate bill relating to the Indiana township road law was defeated on constitutional grounds.

The Erie Academy bill was recommitted.

The Senate bill authorizing the Supreme Court to appoint its officers was lost on constitutional grounds. The supplement preventing the spread of Canada thistles, the bill to incorporate the Pittsburgh Exchange and increasing the revenue of the general fund, and the bill directing the manner in which the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, sitting in banc, shall instruct the judges to hold criminal courts, also passed second reading.

Mr. Huhn moved to suspend the rules to enable him to make a motion to recommit the Pipe Line bill to the Corporation Committee to hear a delegation from the Philadelphia Board of Trade. The motion to hear about being carried by a standing vote when Messrs. Hasson and Long called the yeas and nays, and it was lost—yeas 90, nays 78, a two-third vote being required.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 12, 1875.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—To prevent the storing and handling of gunpowder in afterwards you came, with the same unaccountable shudder that I always greeted the vicinity of worms or toads, or any crawling thing. I always avoided the *trait* in my aunt's coldly selfish nature. Few people believe in such antipathies. God knows I had reason afterwards to believe in mine.

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Bonds; To regulate medical practice.

HOUSE.

The House committee on Elections to investigate the case of Mr. Ringgold, the Philadelphia member charged with a violation of the election laws, occupied most of the session.

Pending the discussion of this matter, before adjournment, Mr. Mitchell submitted the minority report of the Judiciary Committee on the resolution relating to the investigation of the State Treasurer's accounts. The report argues that the House has no power to delegate authority to a committee to make the investigation proposed, but does not deny the Auditor General's power in the premises.

Adjourned till Monday evening.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 15, 1875.

The following bills passed first reading: Relating to change of venue in civil cases.

Appropriating money for the propagation and protection of fish.

Fixing the salaries of judges.

Providing for printing the railroad report of the Auditor General.

Joint resolution authorizing the Clerk to purchase Purdon's Digests.

Authorizing the settlement of claims against the Constitutional Convention.

Repealing the supplement relating to county treasurers.

Providing for transferring awards of arbitrators.

Authorizing appeals from assessments to the courts.

Authorizing the use of unclaimed bodies of convicts for the promotion of medical science.

Enabling assignees to sell incumbered real estate.

Regulating the bringing of suits against the Commonwealth.

Fixing and regulating the terms of all members of Councils and all city, ward, borough and township officers excepting school directors elected by the people.

Providing for the refunding and redemption of municipal indebtedness contracted prior to the 20th of April, 1874.

Enabling citizens to hold titles formerly held contrary to law.

Relating to game and game fish; relating to the commencement of the term of law judges.

The session to-morrow will be for bills on second reading to which there are no objections.

HOUSE.

The Indiana township road law and the bill authorizing the Supreme Court to appoint officers, lost on second reading last Thursday, were reconsidered and postponed for the present.

The session was occupied in offering resolutions on various subjects of no importance, debating and calling the yeas and nays until ten o'clock, being a siege of filibustering by the opponents of Local Option repeal, who held a caucus early in the evening, and who thus succeeded in preventing Mr. Toner's bill from coming up on the first reading, until Wednesday week.

Bills on first reading and reports of committees are the special order for to-morrow.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 10, 1875.

The amount of legislation accomplished in either branch, to-day, was not heavy. The Senate passed four bills finally, and debated one on second reading; and has a calendar of about fifty bills to confront it to-morrow. The House got through with the bills on first reading on its calendar, and devoted its afternoon session mainly to receiving reports from committees.

The bill to repeal the Local Option law has got into a snarl, in the House, through the parliamentary blundering of its friends. When the bill was first reported from the Committee on Viceand Immorality, Mr. Campbell, of Butler, made a motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Local Judiciary. Afraid to trust a vote upon this motion, the friends of the bill made a motion to adjourn, which prevailed, and this carried the bill over among the unfinished business. To-day, the bill was upon the calendar as upon first reading; but the point was made, and the House sustained it, that there being a motion pending to recommit the bill, it could not be read a first time until that motion was disposed of. A motion was then made to suspend the rules, so as to consider the motion to recommit; but as this required a vote of two-thirds, the bill goes over, among the unfinished business, until Wednesday of next week.

The vote to-day, however, 101 to 74, indicates that the bill to repeal the Local Option law will pass the House by a majority of thirty, or thereabouts. Of its passage in the Senate, if a vote can be got upon it here, I have very little doubt. That body has not been polled upon the subject; but I will venture a guess that such will be the result.

The report of the Judiciary Committee, in the House, upon the proposed investigation into the condition of the State Treasury, suggests no special line of action. An investigating committee, appointed by the House now, would have no power to employ or pay a clerk, or incur expenses not authorized by law. It could summon witnesses, under the act of 1855, and turn them over to the courts for trial if they refused to testify; but it could not compel the officer investigated to testify or punish him for refusing. Altogether, the committee seem to think that the House, acting independently, has but little power in the premises, and they throw the ball back upon the incoming Auditor General as the one having the most power to investigate, and most likely to use it. The general understanding is that a resolution will be offered in the House to-morrow or on Friday, to appoint a committee of investigation; but what its fate will be, in the face of this judicial report, that the House is practically powerless to carry such investigation on, it would be hard to forecast.

The bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases was up in Senate to-day, and warm speeches were made upon it by Messrs. Albright and Yerkes in favor, and Mr. McKinley against. The feeling in the Senate seemed to be favorable to the bill, and it will probably pass there and fail in the House, the latter body having fewer lawyers in it, in proportion, than the Senate. The lawyers in the Senate are not all in favor of it, but most of them seem to be. Mr. Clark, of Westmoreland, is against it, and so I think are Mr. Strang and Mr. Wallace, as well as Mr. Winslow; but Messrs. Albright, Bechtel, Rockwell, Newmyer, Jones and others of the profession are for it.

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Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 11, 1875.

The House, shamed into subordination by the comments of the press, to-day took up its calendar of bills, and passed about two-thirds of them through second reading, or disposed of them otherwise. This is, in fact, the first real day's work done in the House since the opening of the session, and there is now some reason to hope that it will yet be able to accomplish something. It has held two sessions a day, for three days past, but it has only passed one bill, in all that time, through all its stages.

The House Committee on Appropriations is hard at work on the Appropriation bill, and will probably be able to report it next week. This committee is made up of new men almost exclusively, the Speaker having ignored the old members in forming it; hence it gets along but slowly. Last year the Appropriations was last year very much simplified by the passage of the bills fixing the salaries of all State officers, the clerks in the various departments, and the contingent expenses of each; so that, instead of setting them all forth, in detail, as used to be done, a single section, appropriating a gross sum, now covers the whole of them.

The Pipe Line bill was up in both Houses to-day, in the House incidentally, and in the Senate on first reading, and it was debated upon it in each, neither of which, however, were decisive. The first reading of bills in the Senate is merely formal, and no action upon it is required by law. When this bill was reached Mr. Davis moved to recommit it to the Committee on Corporations, which motion failed—19 to 21; but several Senators were absent, and had voted aye, and two or three voted no who will vote against the bill. The bill cannot pass, finally, without obtaining twenty-six votes, and of the ten Senators absent it cannot obtain five. Its friends do not, in view of this vote, feel at all sanguine about its passage. In the House, to-day, Mr. Dixon came up upon a motion to suspend the rules so as to get in a motion to recommit, but as it required two-thirds to do that, the motion failed—yeas 91, nays 78. The affirmative vote was against the bill, and the negative in its favor; so that the bill would seem to be against the bill. It will take one hundred and one votes to pass it in that body.

The bill for the establishment of industrial schools read in the Senate to-day by Mr. Jones, is not a bill to establish schools for teaching trades, as its title might lead one to suppose; but is merely a bill to provide for the education of the poor and friendless. It is, upon its face, a general bill, and permits any school district in the State to establish an industrial school, under the management of a board of seven women to be chosen by the school directors, with power to divert from the school fund twenty dollars for each child taught in it; but the true purpose of the bill is probably hidden in the last section, which provides that where such a school already exists, carried on by charitable and benevolent persons, in any district, the board may appropriate the twenty dollars for each child to such school. The object, therefore, would seem to be to open a way, under general law, to divert the school funds to such charity schools as now exist about Philadelphia, and which are hard up for want of adequate means to carry them on.

Among the queer bills up in the House to-day was one to exempt all persons receiving pensions from the payment of taxes. The object of the bill was a good one so far as it looked to relieving the pensioners from the burden of taxation; but Mr. Gunstor very wisely suggested that, as no man can vote in Pennsylvania without paying State or county tax, the passage of the bill would simply deprive the poor pensioners of the right to vote. The exemption from the payment of taxes would be an exemption from the assessment of them; and no man can vote without being assessed with a tax which must also be paid before voting. The House tried to get round the difficulty by amending the bill so as to provide that they should be exempt from all but ten cents of a poll or occupation tax; but the bill makes no provision for establishing and regulating the assessment of such a tax, and even if it did, there would still be the constitutional difficulty ahead of "uniform taxes" upon "the same class of subjects." A personal tax of ten cents on a president, and a similar tax of ten dollars upon a puddler, would not be "uniform," if the courts of this State understand themselves, as it is probable they do.

There is but one way to meet such questions, and that is to do as Governor Hartranft suggested in his message, abolish all the laws now in force authorizing the assessment of personal taxes, or taxes on trades, occupations and professions for municipal and county purposes, and establish a uniform county tax of twenty-five cents upon all persons. This is a sum within the reach of all, and the passage of such a bill would enable all to pay it without feeling it a burden, and so qualify themselves to vote. This change would benefit workingmen of all classes, and the pensioners would have no need of a special exemption law for their exclusive benefit.

Mr. Newmyer's Senate bill to repeal the extension of the Penn township road law to Wilkins and Indiana townships, so far as it relates to Indiana township, was negatived in the House, on the ground that it repealed only *part* of a local law. The Constitution permits the repeal of local laws; but the *quid nunes* say that the repeal of a law is one thing, and the repeal of a *part* of a law is another. I do not quite comprehend the distinction, but I bow with supreme deference to the constitutional wisdom of this House. If there is one thing which this House understands it is the Constitution. It is a little behind on the contents of Smull's Manual, and is not very familiar with parliamentary law; but on the Constitution it is ready cocked and primed, and prepared to go off at any moment. The House must be slow to comprehend its legislative duties, but it cannot be circumvented upon constitutional law.

In the case of this particular law, which originally created the Penn township road law to Wilkins and Indiana townships, it seems that Wilkins wants to retain the law, while Indiana wants to get rid of it. Here, then, is a wrong without a remedy. Indiana township cannot be righted without a wrong to Wilkins, and Wilkins cannot enjoy her right without injuring Indiana. What the law is have, in this case, joined together, no man can put asunder.

The bill to permit defendants to testify, in criminal cases, was up again, to-day, in the Senate, and occupied the morning session. Mr. McKinley's amendment, permitting defendants to make a statement, but not to testify, was lost—yeas 10, nays 34, which was probably a test vote on the bill. Mr. Bechtel tried to get a proviso added, that husband and wife should not be permitted to testify against each other except where one was prosecuting the other on a criminal charge, but failed, as the Senate seemed to be favorable to the bill as it will probably pass there and fail in the House, the latter body having fewer lawyers in it, in proportion, than the Senate. The lawyers in the Senate are not all in favor of it, but most of them seem to be. Mr. Clark, of Westmoreland, is against it, and so I think are Mr. Strang and Mr. Wallace, as well as Mr. Winslow; but Messrs. Albright, Bechtel, Rockwell, Newmyer, Jones and others of the profession are for it.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 12, 1875.

It was generally supposed that the two Houses would, to-day, adjourn over to Wednesday next, to enable the members to go home to attend the spring elections, and the House Democratic caucus adopted a resolution in favor of such an adjournment; but the outery against the waste of time by the Democratic House has so alarmed the leaders that they weakened upon the proposition, and a motion in the House to adjourn over until Wednesday received the votes of the Philadelphia members. The Senate also refused to adjourn over, and both Houses will resume their sessions on Monday night.

Whether it was a fear of going upon the record, or whether the members prefer staying here to going home and engaging in local struggles for office

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1875.

IF IT be true, as is intimated, that the Union Pacific Railroad proposition with regard to the payment of its Government indebtedness originated with Secretary BRISTOW, he has, to say the least, been guilty of a very great blunder. His duty, among other things, is to see that the revenues of the Government are faithfully collected—not to compromise with lawless and defiant debtors at ten cents on the dollar.

THE Houghton (Mich.) *Mining Gazette* places the total copper yield of last year at 22,000 tons, valued at $7,000,000, and the Marquette *Mining Journal* gives the yield of iron ore and pig at 1,025,982 tons, valued at $7,692,911; making the aggregate value of copper and iron produced in the Lake Superior region, during the year 1874, $14,692,811, which is not a bad exhibit considering the prevailing depression of mining interests.

THE Boston *Post* affirms that if the Republican party in Congress had discharged its duty to the South in the past, the existing condition of things in that section would have been impossible. "This is a radical error. The difficulty in the Southern States arises not from any special defects of the system of reconstruction, but because of the implacable hostility of the Democracy, North and South alike, to the elevation of the colored race to civil and political rights. This is the heart of the whole matter.

THERE is trouble among the harmonious Democracy of Connecticut. All the present officers were renominated, but it is claimed that Governor INGERSOLL had previously promised Colonel LOOMIS, one of the candidates for the Gubernatorial nomination, that he would not run again, and the supporters of the latter are exceedingly indignant at what they consider the double dealing of the Executive. If the wisdom and zeal of the Republicans, this year, are only as conspicious as their indifference was last year, all their lost ground may be regained.

TAMMANY has been making propositions to leading Southern men looking to the nomination of Governor TILDEN, of New York, for President, and promising, if the South will accept him, that they shall be allowed to name the Vice President and to have a large voice in making the platform. This, it is reported, "is acceptable to the South." Quite likely. There are some more consistent political dirt-eaters than TILDEN, and no doubt "the South" sees that such a dicker would, in the event of success, enable it to rule the Democratic party again, and through it the nation, as it ruled both before the war.

THE last annual report of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Savings Banks, just published, contains one particularly suggestive fact—that while the withdrawal of deposits last year exceeded by nearly thirty thousand those of 1873, the amount withdrawn was three-fourths of a million dollars less, the excess in number being due to the unusual call for small sums. This proves that the poorer classes are suffering most from the financial and business disturbances. The increase of small deposits last year was also less than for many years past, although the deposit of large sums continued without perceptible abatement.

THAT bitter free trader, DAVID A WELLS, who is in favor of crippling the manufacturing industries of the country and depressing the wages of mechanics and laborers to a still lower pitch, was made the permanent chairman of the Connecticut Democratic state convention last week Tuesday. FERNANDO WOOD, too, another uncompromising free trader, will unquestionably be appointed chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in the next Congress, unless he is elected Speaker of the House, in which event he will appoint a man equally indoctrinated with his own ruinous heresy, to that important position. This is how the Democracy care for the country's prosperity and welfare.

FOR the first time in the history of the foreign trade of New York, the total exports of that port, for the expired portion of the current year, have exceeded the total imports. This has been brought about by the falling off in the landing of foreign products, and the increase in the outflow of specie. The total imports for the past seven months, according to the exhibit given in the New York papers, have been $193,911,995, and the total exports, including specie, $201,722,814. For January of the present year the total imports amount to $24,831,220, against $30,310,679 last year, and the exports to $29,410,728, against $26,118,146 for the corresponding period of 1874. The customs receipts during January were $8,072,846, against $10,042,084 for the relating period of the preceding year.

IT IS difficult to imagine the fatuousness which induces workmen to throw up their employment in times of general hardship and depression like the present, and go out on a strike. And yet the restless agitators and self-styled workingman's "leaders" in New England have begun movements which may possibly result in a series of strikes in several of the large manufacturing towns of that section before spring. The effect of this will of course be to largely increase the number to be fed, and to decrease the number of those who can contribute for that purpose, so that much additional suffering must inevitably ensue. It appears that the total amount of funds collected by the Fall River strikers to support them during the continuance of the strike, is only about one-fifth of the amount of the aggregate weekly pay-roll of the three mills shut down in consequence of the movement—a worse exchange than that of jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire.

RECOVERY from a panic is always slow, but it would seem that by this time we ought to have struck the bottom rock. The statistics of the business of the transatlantic steamship lines for the last year, show a decrease of $27,623,365 in the total receipts, as compared with 1873, the largest portion of the decrease being in passenger receipts from people who, except for the panic and its results, would have gone abroad and scattered their money all over Europe instead of remaining at home and economizing. The New York *Mail* estimates that the country has fully a million dollars better off, to-day, for the practice of this economy. This, too, is only one of the many ways in which we have been recovering from the effects of the panic. All around us are the evidences of recuperation and the elements of growth, and every day is slowly adding to the solid wealth of the country. If it were not for the uncertainty of the conditions under which capital is now compelled to seek employment, there would probably be far less complaint throughout the country of the continued absence of prosperity. We shall right ourselves presently, however.

THE Supreme Court of the United States, on a writ of error from the Supreme Court of this State, has just affirmed the decision of the latter in the appeal of the Reading Railroad against the Commonwealth, to the effect that a tax upon the gross receipts of a railroad company is within the power of a State to impose; that the Erie road was intended to be taxed by the act of the Legislature as doing business within the State, and that the tax is justly apportioned to the length of the road in the State, and not therefore to be complained of by the company, and further that the property of the road is not exempted from the tax by former legislation. In the appeal of *Fox versus* the Wheeling, Pittsburgh and Baltimore Railroad Company, certified from the Circuit Court of the Western district of this State, the same tribunal held that under the resolution of the Pennsylvania Legislature of 1843 a railroad company could not mortgage or otherwise convey their property while debts were due for construction, so as to deprive contractors of their right to recover claims for work done, thus reversing the decision of the court below. In another appeal case from the Circuit Court of Virginia, the Court held that the war having rendered the currency of Virginia of no value in Pennsylvania, there is no longer any authority in an agent, appointed in Virginia in April, 1861, and living in Virginia after the war closed, to take the Virginia currency in discharge of a debt due his principal, a citizen of Pennsylvania. These are all important decisions, particularly the latter, since otherwise every Northern creditor of Southern debtors would be at the mercy of the agent he had employed before the war.

St. Louis doesn't hold out inducements to men to become benefactors. A woman in that city has just recovered $3,500 from a dentist for fracturing her jaw.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Two weeks from to-day, and this Congress will end.

They had roasting ears in Southern Texas last week. Up here we had frozen ones.

The Chinese loan has obtained a celestial success, having been taken up seven times over.

On the first of March free postal delivery will begin in most of the cities of the Dominion.

Boston is declared to be a very Mecca for beggars, simply because the Hubbites are a most charitable people.

The detention of inland mails has been remarkably small, considering the fact of the severity of the weather.

It turns out that Bill King is a Fenian chief, and that he is merely looking for a route of invasion to Canada.

Massachusetts is going to create a new county, to be called Lincoln. We fear Brother Bowles will be jealous.

The Kansas Legislature has passed a bill to loan the destitute counties in that State $96,000 for six years without interest.

In an ironical mood the Texas Legislature proposes to make it a penal offense for a person to walk on a railroad track.

Throughout nearly the whole country, physicians say they have had lately a "good run of broken legs," caused by falling on ice.

The bottom of the humanitarian argument. A New York paper calls upon Mr. Bergh to protect the babies that are spanked too much.

Indianapolis gives a grunt of satisfaction because her packing business is increasing relatively faster than that of any other city in the West.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, in a recent medical article, maintains that rythmical instincts have a physiological origin in respiration, and thinks "one can hardly doubt that Spencer breathed habitually more slower than Prior, and that Audubon breathed a quicker respiration than Homer."

Constancy. Charles A. Merrill, a native of Maine, went to California, sixteen years ago, when he was but nineteen years old, leaving a young lady in Belfast to whom he was betrothed. He accumulated a fortune, and, returning to his native place, last week, married her, having kept up a correspondence during his long absence.

The class of 1825 of Bowdoin College, Maine, which has long been celebrated for the large number of its members who have become prominent in law, literature or the pulpit, will celebrate its semi-centennial at the coming commencement of its college. Rev. Dr. Cheever will deliver the oration, and Henry W. Longfellow an original poem at this reunion of their classmates.

The gold medal to be presented by sympathizing friends in France to John Brown's widow and sons has at last been completed and forwarded to this country. It weighs nearly two pounds. The accompanying it is a letter to Mrs. Brown, signed by Victor Hugo, Louis Blanc, V. Schœlcher, Eugene Pelletan, Etienne Arago, Laurent-Pichat, and other members of the committee of subscription.

Miss Caroline M. Burnham, of Philadelphia, has applied for permission to practice before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Her application has been referred to an examining committee by the Court in General Term. The Supreme Court of that District having admitted one lady (Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood) to practice, it is probable that the present applicant will be admitted in case her examination is a satisfactory one.

A budding genius. Kankakee, Illinois, has an eight-year old youngster who has already gone into the publishing business, and who may sometime be heard from in the higher walks of literature. He is publishing a monthly magazine four by three inches in size. He sets the type and works off the edition himself, besides filling the editorial chair and managing the business of the concern. The work is all done outside of school hours.

A blooming New Jersey belle named Mary E. Muffet has just been married in a dress consisting of a buff-colored silk, the materials of which were brought from Canton, China, and taken to England during the late rebellion. Resolutions, by Jesse Kean, a prominent merchant of that day, and great-great-grand-father to the bride. She is the sixth bride married in that dress during the year, amounted to $104,235 38, and the net receipts to $93,238 83. The number of free patients was thirty-one, and the amount expended on their account, $15,170 16. Dr. Kirkbride in concluding his report says "that everything here has been provided, and this work done without call from city or State, or a penny added to any one's taxes."

STATE NEWS.

The building for the Indiana normal school is completed by the contractors.

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Mrs. Mabel McConnell died at her residence in Taylor township, Cambria county, on the 13th inst., aged eighty-three years.

Mr. E. J. Boyer, of Valley township, Montour county, put up two large stoves in his hog-pen recently, for the greater comfort of his "grunters."

Rev. Mr. Crawford, of Newport, Perry county, has been secured as pastor of the Reformed church of Lewisburg, and will enter upon his duties in March.

It is said that no hotel in Harrisburg would accommodate the Jubilee Singers, and they had to go to Lancaster to get lodgings. Is it true, Harrisburg holds slightly to Sodom?

Mr. Robert Patton, who opened the first coal mines in the neighborhood of Minersville, Northumberland county, died at Locust Gap, on the 20th ult., in the seventy-second year of his age.

The Chester *News* says that two men in a boat attempted to cross the Delaware at Brach's wharf, on Monday, and when half way across became hung in the ice, and were not relieved from their perilous position until Wednesday at noon.

The Philipsburg *Journal* mentions the death of Mr. John D. Simler, of Lloysville, in the fulness of his age. Mr. Simler's grandfather, John Henry Simler, was an officer under La Fayette, in the revolutionary struggle, in the year 1778.

Mr. George de B. Keim has been appointed general solicitor of the Reading Railroad Company, with his office at the general office of the company. He will have general charge of all the legal business of the company and the correspondence with the counsel in the several counties.

A family named France, residing in Meyersdale, Somerset county, has suffered a terrible bereavement recently. Three children, aged respectively one, three, and seven years, fell victims to the "red fiend of the nursery"—scarlet fever, within a period of two weeks, and this included all the little ones that had households.

A semi-official rumor is abroad, says the Meadville *Republican*, that the proposition to remove the general offices of the Atlantic Railroad Company to Cleveland has been abandoned, and the announcement made that they will remain here permanently. This will be gratifying news to our citizens as to the fact that the chief officers of the company now located here, and who are loath to surrender the pleasant ties which make their permanent stay here desirable.

There appeared last week in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, announcements of the deaths of fourteen persons, eight men and six women, who had lived beyond the advanced age of eighty years, to wit: John M. Carter, aged 81; Edward Edwards, 81; Charity Kaighn, 81; William Bowman, 82; Mary Gaskill, 86; Prudence Donavan, 84; Sarah Cruser, 85; Elizabeth McElhenney, 85; Michael Loan, 86; John Eggerson, 87, and John P. Hutchinson, 88; David Gwynn, 83, and Richard Ross, 89.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* says: During the past week a man, representing himself as an agent of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, has been going among widows and poor persons, stating to them that the company was about distributing coal to those in need, the money for hauling only being asked in return. He obtained several sums ranging from one to two dollars, from poor men and women, who were very deeply disappointed upon being told, at the office of the company, to which they repaired when finding the coal was not forthcoming, that the whole affair was a swindler. This very miserable scoundrel should be watched.

The Beaumont Deer Park Association of Bucks county, have just imported a fallow buck from England by the steamer Manhattan, that arrived at Philadelphia on Friday evening last, the 12th inst. This association, incorporated about four years ago "for the propagation of game and fish," procured in 1872 the remnant of a herd of fallow deer, which formerly belonged to the late Colonel Joseph Tuley, of this city. The only buck belonging to the herd died soon after they became the property of the association, and by the kindness of the Earl of Derby, the buck just imported was allowed to be taken from his large and splendid herd. This is believed to be the only lot of English fallow deer now in America. It is the intention of the Beaumont Deer Park Association to supply other parks, as well as the Zoological Gardens, if successful in breeding from this stock.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Lehigh Shovel Company ship their manufactured goods direct to Europe.

It is announced that the Birdsboro, Pa., nail works will resume work this week.

The strike of the coal miners in the Mahoning Valley is likely to prove abortive.

Portage county, Ohio, capitalists are to erect a large cheese factory at Canfield, Mahoning county.

A gentleman from Marietta, talks of establishing a foundry and machine shop at Emporium, Pa.

The Elyria, Ohio, Screw and Tap Factory is now fully in operation, giving employment to twenty hands.

The railroad shops at Milton, Pa., are closed on account of the scarcity of water to supply the engine.

Messrs. Van de Sande & Cupp's rolling mill at Lebanon, Pa., have orders on hand for several months brisk work.

The sewer pipe works of Sperry, Riche & Co., at Talmadge, Ohio, are being enlarged to double their capacity.

A lime kiln is to be built on the line of the canal in Lock Haven, next summer, by one of a large iron firm in Elmira.

The Union Foundry at Catasauqua, Pa., has increased a day's work to ten hours, and has all its workmen in employment.

A steam engine has just been completed for the Choctaw nation by the Greenleaf Manufacturing Company, of Quincy, Illinois.

Clement's planing mill, at Sunbury, has received a contract for 75,000 feet of moulding and 22,000 large sash for the centennial building at Philadelphia.

Potts Bros' rolling mill at Pottstown, Pa., has resumed operations on a two weeks' "run," at the end of which a longer "run" is expected to be announced.

Snyder Brothers, Williamsport, Pa., have twenty men at work in their machine shop, at the present time, and they report a perceptible improvement in business.

The workingmen in the rolling mill of Seyfert, McManus & Co., Reading, Pa., have been suspended, and a reduction of ten per cent. has been made in certain kinds of labor.

There is considerable work going on in the several lumber camps in Cameron county, Pa., and there are good prospects of a ready sale of lumber in the Eastern markets.

Seventy-five workmen are now engaged on the main buildings of the new rolling mill at Chester, which, when completed, will cover one hundred by two hundred feet of ground.

Over one hundred and twenty-five different styles of stoves are turned out of the Quincy, Illinois, stove factory; thirty-two hands are employed, and six thousand stoves were made last year, valued at $70,000.

A REVENUE cutter sailing by Duxbury pier, on the coast of Massachusetts, during the severe gale last week, saw a flag of distress flying from the lighthouse. Sending a boat's crew for inquiry, it was stated that the entrance of the lighthouse and this no communication with the outside world for forty-nine days. Their fuel was exhausted; they had no water, and would in a few days be out of food. Their wants were supplied. We see that the salary attached to the office of lighthouse keeper at this highly comfortable station is $500; and there would probably be about that number of applicants for it, if the present incumbent should resign.

THE INSANE.

Report of Dr. Kirkbride, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

The report, for 1874, of T. S. Kirkbride, M.D., Physician and Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, has just been issued. It states that at the date of the last report there were 416 patients in the institution, since which 248 have been admitted, 248 were discharged or died, leaving 416 at the close of the year. The total number in the hospital during the year was 664; the highest at any one time was 446, and the lowest 403; the number of males during the year was 350, and females 314. The number of males admitted during the year was 140, and of females 108. Of the patients discharged during 1874, 107 were cured, 15 much improved, 48 improved, 32 stationary and 46 died. The admissions to the hospital since its opening were 3,679 males, and 3,220 females; of these 3,174 were single, 3,147 married, 394 widows and 184 widowers. Of the whole number 5,631 were residents of Pennsylvania. The principal supposed causes of insanity were ill health, intemperance, loss of property, religious excitement, mental anxiety, loss of friends and domestic difficulties. The exciting cause of the year amounted to $104,235 38, and the net receipts to $93,238 83. The number of free patients was thirty-one, and the amount expended on their account, $15,170 16. Dr. Kirkbride in concluding his report says "that everything here has been provided, and this work done without call from city or State, or a penny added to any one's taxes."

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PERSONAL.

Mr. Spencer, of Modus, Conn., has just welcomed his twenty-seventh child. A repeating Spencer.

General James Longstreet has abandoned Louisiana politics, and has bought a farm in Georgia, where he proposes to engage largely in sheep raising.

Ex-Vice President Colfax is now the Vice President of the Indiana Reaper and Iron Company, which has a large foundry and machine shops at South Bend in that State.

Anna Dickinson will speak in Steinway Hall, New York, next week, on "A woman's opinion of it." The it will probably be found on hearing to be the great double-headed, double-barrelled scandal.

Cincinnati is negotiating with Senator and Mrs. Sprague with reference to the removal of the remains of Chief Justice Chase from the Congressional Cemetery at Washington to Spring Grove, Cincinnati's picturesque city of the dead.

A Dissenter has again carried off the highest honors at Cambridge University, England. The senior wrangler this year is Mr. J. W. Lord, son of a Baptist minister at Birmingham. Mr. Chrystal, who is bracketed second, is a Presbyterian.

Capt. Tyson, of Polaris fame, has been appointed to command the police force now on duty at the Navy Department, Washington, which, he says, is better than a trip of six and a half long months on a piece of floating ice through the long nights and storms of an Arctic winter.

So many applications for divorces have been made to the Idaho Legislature, that a member has introduced a bill divorcing all the married people in the Territory, and placing them *in statu quo antematrimonium*. This, he says, will save time, and those who wish can be remarried.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, in a recent medical article, maintains that rythmical instincts have a physiological origin in respiration, and thinks "one can hardly doubt that Spencer breathed habitually more slower than Prior, and that Audubon breathed a quicker respiration than Homer."

Constancy. Charles A. Merrill, a native of Maine, went to California, sixteen years ago, when he was but nineteen years old, leaving a young lady in Belfast to whom he was betrothed. He accumulated a fortune, and, returning to his native place, last week, married her, having kept up a correspondence during his long absence.

The class of 1825 of Bowdoin College, Maine, which has long been celebrated for the large number of its members who have become prominent in law, literature or the pulpit, will celebrate its semi-centennial at the coming commencement of its college. Rev. Dr. Cheever will deliver the oration, and Henry W. Longfellow an original poem at this reunion of their classmates.

The gold medal to be presented by sympathizing friends in France to John Brown's widow and sons has at last been completed and forwarded to this country. It weighs nearly two pounds. The accompanying it is a letter to Mrs. Brown, signed by Victor Hugo, Louis Blanc, V. Schœlcher, Eugene Pelletan, Etienne Arago, Laurent-Pichat, and other members of the committee of subscription.

Miss Caroline M. Burnham, of Philadelphia, has applied for permission to practice before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. Her application has been referred to an examining committee by the Court in General Term. The Supreme Court of that District having admitted one lady (Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood) to practice, it is probable that the present applicant will be admitted in case her examination is a satisfactory one.

A budding genius. Kankakee, Illinois, has an eight-year old youngster who has already gone into the publishing business, and who may sometime be heard from in the higher walks of literature. He is publishing a monthly magazine four by three inches in size. He sets the type and works off the edition himself, besides filling the editorial chair and managing the business of the concern. The work is all done outside of school hours.

A blooming New Jersey belle named Mary E. Muffet has just been married in a dress consisting of a buff-colored silk, the materials of which were brought from Canton, China, and taken to England during the late rebellion. Resolutions, by Jesse Kean, a prominent merchant of that day, and great-great-grand-father to the bride. She is the sixth bride married in that dress during the year, amounted to $104,235 38, and the net receipts to $93,238 83. The number of free patients was thirty-one, and the amount expended on their account, $15,170 16. Dr. Kirkbride in concluding his report says "that everything here has been provided, and this work done without call from city or State, or a penny added to any one's taxes."

STATE NEWS.

The building for the Indiana normal school is completed by the contractors.

The Scranton *Times* has discontinued its Sunday edition in order to give the editors rest.

Mrs. Mabel McConnell died at her residence in Taylor township, Cambria county, on the 13th inst., aged eighty-three years.

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BURNED ALIVE!

Three Children Locked in a Burning House in Fulton County—Destruction of the House and Inmates.

McCONNELLSBURG, PA., February 16—The house of D. B. Mellott, in this county, was burned to-day and three of his children were burned to death. Mr. and Mrs. Mellott went away on a visit and left the children locked in the house. On their return, a few hours afterwards, they found the bones of the children among the ruins.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 16, 1875.

The following passed second reading: An act authorizing the town council in incorporated boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, subject to appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

An act to authorize the judges of the several courts throughout the Commonwealth to fix the number of regular terms of said several courts, and the times for holding the same, the time for summoning the Grand Jury and for the return of constables, aldermen and justices of the peace to the same.

An act to validate certain conveyances made by married women.

An act to provide for the erecting of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on the public roads of this Commonwealth.

An act to reimburse A. H. Waters, Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphan School at Uniontown, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, for clothing and funeral expenses of soldiers' orphans.

A supplement to an act, entitled An act relative to courts in this Commonwealth, approved May 4, A. D. 1852.

An act to correct an error in designating the Judicial district composed of the counties of Wyoming and Sullivan, and fixing a correct number to the same.

An act relating to the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

An act relating to venue in civil causes.

Joint resolution providing for the printing of the report of the Auditor General on railroads.

Joint resolution authorizing the Clerk of the Senate to procure three copies of Purdon's Digest for the use of the Senate, so amended so as to give one copy to each Senator and clerk.

A supplement to an act for the abandonment and discontinuance of the use and possession of the State powder magazine in the city of Philadelphia, and authorizing and empowering the sale of the property purchased for the erection of another magazine, approved April 29, A. D. 1874.

An act declaratory of the true intent of section sixty-six of the act to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws of this Commonwealth, approved May 31, A. D. 1860.

An act enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens.

An act to provide for the refunding and redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipalities or incorporated district evidenced by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874.

The following passed first reading:

Forbidding the pollution of streams, lakes and water courses.

Relative to banks incorporated under the laws of the State, authorizing them to receive deposits.

Relative to the commencement of terms of office of judges.

A bill was reported authorizing cities to regulate sewer charges.

The following were read in place:

Mr. Newmyer—Supplement to the Mechanics' lien law, extending it to material furnished by way of conveyance.

Mr. Alexander—Imposing a State license of three hundred dollars on pawnbrokers.

Mr. Cooper—To protect children in the right to learn trades.

Mr. Jones—Exempting pianos from execution; also prohibiting the falsification of entries in corporation books.

Mr. Rutan—To repeal all general laws creating or renewing charters of corporations provided for by the Corporation act of last year.

Mr. Wallace—To enlarge the powers of courts to grant, alter and amend charters; also for the incorporation of the second third reading, and Friday to petitions, bills in place, reports of committees, &c. Mondays' sessions are open to "unfinished business" and on any other day a motion to require a suspension of the rules to get anything up out of its order, and that takes a two-third vote, which the opponents of local option can arrest.

Mr. Christy—Making an appropriation for Dixmont Hospital; also for the expenses of the Ohio River Commission; also setting aside a portion for taxes on sales.

Mr. Long—Relative to the support and employment of the poor in cities of the third class.

Mr. Stewart—Relating to the appointment of auditors by orphans' courts.

Mr. Wylie—Fixing the standard weight of bark.

Mr. Barrett—Making an appropriation for the Pennsylvania Reform School.

Mr. O'Neil—Regulating pawnbroker's licenses.

Mr. Brown—Authorizing the appointment of stenographers in courts.

Mr. Brown—Empowering councils of cities to prescribe certain salaries.

Mr. Brown—Supplement to the $300 exemption law, prohibiting waiver.

Mr. Mitchell—To protect bituminous coal mines.

The following passed first reading:

Providing for the publication of the tenth volume of the Transactions of the State Agricultural Society; Relating to the courts of the State; Relating to judgment and stay of execution; Supplement to the Free Banking law of 1869; Christy's Ohio River Improvement bill.

The act for the establishment of new counties was passed over.

The bill exempting agricultural machinery from taxation was recommitted.

The act with reference to salaries of county treasurers was lost.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, made a minority report in the Ringgold case, protesting against the jurisdiction of a committee of the House to determine default, but having decided the minority report not in order, for the reason that the majority had made no report, and the matter was dropped for the present.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 17, 1875.

A large number of petitions were presented. The bill to prohibit the falsification of physicians' professional certificates was reported with a negative recommendation.

The following were reported favorably: To create a State Board of Health; Supplement to the act authorizing courts to appoint stenographers and fix their compensation; To authorize State banks to become national; Prescribing the punishment for writing threatening letters;

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 17, 1875.

There is no noticeable change in the local money market. Most of our banks are discounting at eight and nine per cent., all good paper offered, many of them having a large amount of unemployed funds left for want of satisfactory demand to employ them. Business is still a little slack, partly from the lingering effects of the late panic, and to some extent the result of recent failures, which would have a tendency to destroy confidence and depress business in the most favorable and prosperous times; yet our merchants and manufacturers are looking forward hopefully, with the expectation that business will both improve and increase with the opening of the coming spring.

—The matter of paying interest on daily balances of country bank accounts has been under consideration with New York banks for some time past, and a greater part of them have notified their correspondents that, because business has continued dull, with no special encouraging out-look for its revival, they are compelled to reduce rates of interest on daily balances from four (4) and five (5) per cent. to three (3) per cent. This, too, should engage the attention of our city bank and bankers. The rate usually paid here ranges from four (4) to five (5) and, in some cases, six (6) per cent. on balances, which at this time cannot be employed safely in a manner to reimburse them, and it is certainly well-known to bank officers that such accounts usually carry large balances just at the time money is plenty, thereby being of no advantage, but only adding to the amount they are unable to use; on the other hand when exchange or currency in their turn become scarce and there is a demand for money nine chances in ten these same accounts will want their money also. This is not legitimate banking, and steps of retrenchment should be taken in this direction by reducing interest, making the time, labor, stationery, &c., used and expended a sufficient remuneration for such balances, or in extreme cases, when large amounts are kept make the rate three (3) per cent., the same as given by their Eastern correspondents. This one reform if ever carried out among our banks will eventually result in good, not alone with the banks but will extend to the business man, the manufacturer and the mechanic, proving, as it will, that the proper way to bring about a healthy state of business and of finances is by judicious retrenchment, cutting off all expenditures which are without reasonable compensation, which alone will bring business down to a proper conservative basis.

OFFICE OF TRADE & STOCK REPORTER, No. 7 NEW STREET, NEW YORK, February 16, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

We have nothing new to report in regard to our stock market. Business is very dull and prices are consequently drooping. The range of depression to-day has been from ½@2 per cent., the former in Lake Shore, which has been remarkably steady, and the latter in Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph, which has been heavy under extensive opposition and competition as to rates of the Western Union Company. Wabash was the next heaviest on the list, opening at 14¼, and to-day's the close selling at 10¾, closing at 10¾. Gold has taken a contrary course to-day, opening at 114¾, and after selling at 114¾ steadily advanced to 115¼, at which it closed. Its future is entirely in the hands of operators, of which a few of whom have been holders of it since it was last selling at 115¾, and if common report can be credited they will be glad to unload at the first opportunity. Money steady at three per cent.

Yours truly, TRADE & STOCK REPORTER.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

February 17, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	115¼	115¼	115¼	115¼	115¼	115
U. S. 6s, 1881, coup.	116	116	116		116	116
5-20's, 1862	116	116	116¼		116¼	116¼
5-20's, 1864	117	117	117		117	117
5-20's, 1865	119¼	119¼	119¼		119¼	119¼
5-20's, 1865, new	119¼	119¼	119¼		119¼	119¼
5-20's, 1867	119¼	119¼	119¼		119¼	119¼
5-20's, 1867, Pacific rail	119¼	119¼	119¼		119¼	119¼
5-20's, 1868	119¼	119¼	119¼		119¼	119¼
10-40's, coupons	114¼	114¼	114¼		114¼	114¼
Currency 6's	119¼		119		119	
New 5 per cents	114¼	114¼	114¼		114¼	114¼
Western Union Tel.	71¾	71¾	71¾		70¾	70¾
Quicksilver	22¾	22¾	22¾			
Pacific Mail	32¾	32¾	31¾	31¼	31¼	31¾
Panama				97		
Adams Express		99		100¾		
Wells-Fargo Express		90		90¾		
American Express				58		
United States Express		52		53		
New York Central	101¾	101¾		101¾		
Erie	27¾	27¾		27¾	27¾	27¾
Michigan Central	75	75		75½		75
Michigan Southern	72¾	73	72¾	73	73	73¾
Illinois Central		96		96		
Cleve. & Pittsburgh		91	90¾			
Chicago & Northw'n	43¾	43¾	43¾			43¾
Do preferred			57			57
Rock Island	103¾	103¾	103¾		103¾	103¾
St. Paul, common	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Do, preferred				43	43	43
Wabash, common	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾	10¾
Fort Wayne	97	97	97	97		
Ohio & Mississippi	25¾	26	25¾		25¾	25¾
Union Pacific	28¾	29	28¾		28¾	28¾
Harlem			131			
Hannibal & St. Joe.			24		24	24
C. C. & I. C.			62	62	62	62
Tennessee, old			62		62	
Do, new			62		62	
South Carolinas, Act'f			30¾		30¾	
North Carolinas, Act'f			28		28	
Missouri 6's			98¾		98¾	

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	52¾	
Pennsylvania Central Scrip	107	
Reading	57¾	57¾
United Co's of N. Jersey	131	
Oil Creek, sales	11	
Lehigh Valley	41	
Allegheny Valley	91	
Central Transportation	44	
Empire Transportation		55
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis mortgage bonds	77	

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY, February 17, 1875. }

In some departments of trade a very slow and gradual improvement from the apathy existing for some time appears to be taking place. Trade cannot yet be said to be active, but there has been an increase of business in such lines of trade as grain, produce and provisions. On the contrary, dry goods, groceries, hides and leather, etc., continue to be dull and apathetic. Some business men think that they can discern signs of improvement in the iron trade, and if the labor troubles can be settled and the mills started anew, a much more prosperous business can be expected among the wholesale houses.

The railroad war just opened between the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads is narrowly watched by our merchants, in the hope that some advantage may be gained thereby. There does not seem to be any immediate probability of such results occurring at present, but it is hoped by many that some reduction or alteration in the discriminating freight rates, under which Pittsburgh now labors, may grow out of the struggle in which these corporations are engaged. A very large proportion of the business prostration of the past year is justly chargeable to the disadvantages in freights under which our merchants and manufacturers labor, and it should be the first effort of all our business men, individually and collectively, to secure the earliest means of emancipation from the freighting monopoly, by which their business is hampered.

The January report of the Department of Agriculture gives the following estimates of yield last year:

The product of wheat is greater in the aggregate than in any previous year, exceeding 500,000,000 bushels. There was an increase of acreage of fully 2,500,000.

Rye gave a product of 14,801,000 bushels, being 98 per cent. of the previous crop.

Oats, 240,000,000 bushels, a decline of nearly 20,000,000 bushels.

Barley, 32,764,956 bushels, being one per cent. in excess.

Potatoes, 106,000,000 bushels; about the same as the previous year.

Hay, 25,500,000 tons; an increase of 500,000 tons.

Corn, 854,000,000 bushels; a decrease of 88,000,000 bushels.

The following were the exports of produce, etc., from the four leading cities of the Atlantic seaboard for the periods named:

	Week end'g Feb. 13, 1875.	Week end'g Feb. 6, 1875.	Wk. end'g Feb. 14, 1874.
Flour, bbls	46,629	41,786	59,000
Wh't, bu	140,000	228,933	520,000
Corn, bu	611,710	761,373	334,000
Rye, bu			11,400
Pork, bls	5,100	5,926	5,336
Lard, lbs	3,227,000	3,350,238	2,452,000
Bacon, lbs	8,662,752	8,112,912	1,654,409

*From five points.

The following table shows the value of dry goods imported, withdrawn from warehouse, and warehoused in New York during the week ending February 11:

	Ent. for Cons'tn.	With-drawn.	Ent. for Cons'tn.	Ware-housed.
Manufact'rs of wool	$ 749,961	$ 356,275	$ 121,209	
Manufrs of cotton	585,955	270,085	103,049	
Manuf of silk	403,553	119,262	104,029	
Manuf'rs of flax	336,962	188,573	107,071	
Miscel. dry goods	292,476	29,292	51,617	
Total	$2,272,909	$ 963,518	$ 491,882	
Add entered for cons'mption	2,272,909			
Total thrown on market	$4,234,418			$2,272,909
Total entered at the port				$7,763,782

As compared with the corresponding week last year this shows an increase of $707,710 in the total thrown on the market, and an increase of $1,195,331 in the total entered at the port.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city, since our last, are as follows:

Hemp, bbls	682	Corn, sks	170
Wheat, sks	170	Barley, sks	209
Rye, sks	25	Oats, sks	327
Butter, pkgs	104	Hay, bales	314

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	8,140	5,539	13,679
Apples, bbls	251	304	555
Cheese, box	209	24	233
Corn, sks	6,015	4,285	10,140
Wheat, sks	3,458	1,181	4,639
Barley, sks	2,257	2,257	4,514
Rye, sks	320	501	820
Oats, sks	5,724	7,310	13,034
Butter, pkgs	331	344	675
Bacon, pcs	4,434	3,228	8,362
Bacon, lbs	853	381	1,234
Pork, tcs, bbls	1,199	891	2,090
Hay, bales	1,959	2,313	4,272

The following quotations are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—Trade in the grain markets has not been very large for some days past, but there has been a very fair average of transactions in round lots. At the Chamber of Commerce to-day about 2,000 bushels of grain changed hands, the aggregate of transactions in grain, hay, feed, &c., being over $2,500. The receipts of grain during the past week, have been very light, being only 40,085 bushels, against 43,109 bushels the preceding week. The transactions have been almost entirely in corn and oats.

Wheat—The transactions in wheat continue very limited, as there is little encouragement in the state of the flour market for Pennsylvania millers to continue operations. Prices are comparatively unchanged. Receipts have been very light during the past week, being only 3,703 bushels, against 8,955 bushels the week preceding. We learned of no transactions in grain to-day. The last quotation for red winter wheat at $1 30@1 32 per bushel; Ohio and Illinois do $1 20@1 22; amber do $1 17@1 19; Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat $1 15@1 16.

Corn—The receipts for the past week have been decreased, being but 10,952 bushels, against 18,122 bushels the previous week, and over 20,000 bushels the week before that. Prices continue rather depressed, owing to the overstocked condition of the market, but the loss of dealings is somewhat firmer. The range of prices at the Exchange Commercial to-day was 73@75c per bushel for high-mixed and yellow, with one car of yellow sold to an outside buyer at 76c; bulked 71@72c. Ohio and Illinois firmer at 74@76c for prime yellow; 71@73c for mixed and high white. The calculation of crop returns for the past year would indicate a slightly higher range of values than the prevailing

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons, in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

THE National Grange has adopted a resolution regretting that no adequate provision has been made by the Centennial Commission whereby the agricultural interests of the country can be fully and systematically represented at the Exposition, and asking such a modification of existing plans as may secure these ends.

THE railroads throughout the country are still suffering, and even the best paying lines are reported to be losing money. A comparative statement of the gross earnings of thirteen of the principal roads of the country for January shows a decrease even as compared with the same time last year, when the panic was at its height. There are but two roads whose earnings are in excess of last year—the Central Pacific, $41,442, and St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern, $16,321.

NOTWITHSTANDING the slaughter, by the whites of Vicksburg of over one hundred negroes to prevent the inditing of a negro into the Sheriff's office, PETER CROSBY has at last had his bond approved as the legally chosen sheriff of the county, the courts sustaining him against the murderers who put that whole State into commotion, because they didn't like the shape of the bond CROSBY originally gave. The next thing to be done is to bring the murderers, themselves, to justice, if they have not already departed to Arkansas, Texas or Louisiana.

THE latest novelty in the way of proposed legislation, is an anti-treating bill, which has just been introduced in the Illinois Legislature, providing that any person asking another to drink any intoxicating liquors shall be fined from twenty to one hundred dollars. Should it be passed and enforced, it will doubtless be hailed as a great blessing by Democratic politicians in that State, whom it will relieve from the heavy burden of treating their constituents. But then Illinois would also lose its distinctive appellation of the Sucker State.

THE depression in the iron trade continues unabated, not only in our own country, but in all the principal producing countries. On the first of November last 295 of the 677 furnaces of the country were out of blast, and on the 10th of the present month more than one-half of the total number of furnaces were idle. There are large stocks of iron on hand, and the rail road demand, which was very great up to the time of the panic, is now exceedingly small. It is estimated that over a million of skilled and unskilled working men and working women in this country who are out of employment to-day because there is no work for them to do, fully one-fourth are iron workers, coal and ore miners, and other mechanics and laborers who are directly dependent for daily bread upon the iron trade.

THE Supreme Court of Illinois has just rendered a decision, declaring "champerty" to be an offense against the law of that State. "Champerty" consists in the making of agreements between clients and attorneys, by which the latter are to prosecute suits, pay costs, and receive some portion of the land or other thing recovered as pay for their services. The law of champerty in England dates back anterior to the reign of EDWARD the First, and has continued with various modifications until the present day in England and in some of the States of the Union. In Illinois, however, no statute concerning it has ever been passed, though maintenance, or the unlawful stirring up of litigation, has been forbidden. The court, on this broad ground that the policy of the common law was to protect persons from harrassing litigation, and held that lawyers who take suits on speculation are guilty of misdemeanor, punishable with fine and imprisonment. The decision is of great importance to business men and speculators in that State.

PIECE by piece the Southern press is throwing aside its flimsy pretenses of loyalty to the National Government, and revealing its naked instincts of treason and rebellion. The last instance, is the method by which the Shreveport Times would employ in order to bring about a settlement of the questions at issue in that State:

"This policy of peace never had our indorsement. We believed, and we believe now, that the protest of Louisiana against the wrongful Constitution and illegality had better have been written in the blood of ten thousand men than in the speech of Speaker Wilts; we believed, and we believe now, that the Southern people should have risen in their might and forced the brute of the White House to recede from his infamous, illegal and tyrannical interference with the Legislature of a sovereign State. Republics are born in the midst of battles; and evils, innovations upon government, corruptions, and wrongs, such as have established in the present Administration have seldom, if ever, been corrected by the civil processes of the law; they gradually engraft themselves upon the very institutions of the country, and only the fires of revolution can burn them out. *The revolution must come*, and we believe it better that the American people should confront Grant and his twenty thousand soldiers in 1875, than that they should confront Grant and his three or four hundred thousand soldiers in 1876."

The people are gradually getting the evidence before them. We have little doubt as to what their verdict will be in 1876.

THE production of bituminous coal, in Pennsylvania, in 1874, may be stated briefly as follows, the tons given meaning tons of 2,000 pounds:

	Tons.
Western Pennsylvania	7,324,995
Allegheny Mountains (Pennsylvania Railroad)	298,694
Blossburg region	70,348
Barclay region	357,072
McIntyre Coal Company	926,926
Broad Top region	265,291
Clearfield region	703,170
	9,731,540
Coke	1,624,379
Total	11,355,919

The bituminous coal produced elsewhere may be summed up thus:

	Tons.
Cumberland (Md.) region	2,410,905
St. Louis region	725,350
Tennessee region	81,945
Kanawha region	140,377
Alabama region	48,315
Chicago region	784,000
Pomeroy, Connelton, Hocking Valley and various other places, estimated	1700,000
	5,191,892
Pennsylvania, as above	11,355,919
Grand total	16,547,811

This approaches, very nearly, to the total production of anthracite coal, and the steady growth of the yield of bituminous coal, in all directions, will soon bring it above the aggregate of anthracite, which has probably passed the maximum of what it will ever attain.

THE report submitted, officially, by General SHERIDAN to the Congressional Committee on Louisiana Affairs, of the number of persons killed and wounded in that State since 1868, presents a frightful total of political assassinations in a comparatively small State. In answer to a question put to him by Judge HOAR, of the committee, he says:

"In respect to inquiries of members of the Congressional Committee as to the number of persons killed and wounded in the State since 1866, on account of their political opinions, I have to state that the number reported to date is as follows: Killed, 2,142; wounded, 2,115; total, 4,257."

There is something frightful in this simple statement of figures. This, be it remembered, is not a record of the number of persons indicted and brought to trial in that State within the period named, for the crime referred to; but a list of untried and unprosecuted offenses. These murders, stabbings and woundings have been perpetrated as a sort of social duty which those who participated in them were bound to perform. They were assassinations for holding political opinions different from those of the white assassins who shot at and wounded or killed 4,257 of their opponents, without ever being called in question for it.

In the State of Pennsylvania, with a population five times as large as that of Louisiana, a resort to personal violence in political quarrels is so rare, that it is next to impossible to realize the idea of a state of society in which 2,142 men can be sent to their long account, in nine years, for merely differing in opinion from the Thugs among whom it was their ill-fortune to live, and as many more maimed for life for a similar reason. Yet such has been the state of society in Louisiana since the war closed, and such is the condition of things we are asked to perpetuate by recognizing the murderous cut-throats as the only fit rulers of the country.

THE NATIONAL SINKING FUND.

Congress, when it passed the laws authorizing the loans which now constitute the national debt, incorporated a provision that one per cent. of the amount of each loan should annually be set apart as a sinking fund for its redemption. This was a very small sum to set aside for that purpose; but it was made small because the nation was, at that time, engaged in a costly struggle for its life, and it was thought most prudent not to undertake to pay off the debt at any faster rate.

Small as it was, however, it has never been fully met. There has been an earnest effort, ever since JOHNSON went out of office, to raise the funds necessary to pay it, and so keep faith with the public creditors; but the obligation has never been redeemed as it should have been. The amount due to the sinking fund, from this source, from 1862 to 1875, is $417,500,000, and the amount actually paid in to it is only $141,000,000; while all the bonds redeemed within that period, from other sources than the sinking fund, if they are to be added in, bring the total up only to $323,250,000, or $94,250,000 short of the amount actually due. The sinking fund, itself, counting only what has been paid into it in compliance with law, is $276,500,000 short; but Mr. NIBLACK contends that the actual reduction of the debt, by any means whatever, is a virtual compliance with the sinking fund requirement. Admitting this, for the argument's sake, the deficit is still upon the verge of a hundred millions, and good faith requires of us that that deficit shall be made good.

There can be no question, in the forum of conscience, that this legal provision for a sinking fund was as much a pledge of the national credit to pay off one per cent. of the debt annually as was the promise to pay the interest regularly and the principal at maturity, and that we are as much bound to pay it, promptly and regularly, as we are to pay the interest. It was a part of the agreement upon which the Government obtained the money, and, as such, the Government is in honor bound to meet it.

We will not stop to discuss the point made by Mr. NIBLACK that, the redemptions of the debt effected from other sources than the sinking fund, are to be considered as having been accomplished by it. The money used for such redemptions undoubtedly should have gone into the sinking fund, at first; and as all that the public creditor has a right to ask is that a certain amount of the public debt shall be extinguished each year, the redemption, however effected, is a practical compliance with the requirements of the law.

The argument in favor of the new tax bill now pending in the House is that, the money due to the sinking fund, and solemnly pledged to it by the acts of Congress authorizing the loans, cannot be obtained except by increased taxation. The new tax bill must be passed, or the good faith of the nation tarnished. It is simply a question of public fidelity. Shall we do what we have promised to do, or shall we forfeit our word, and stand convicted of national dishonor? That is the entire question in a nutshell.

The theory of Mr. FERNANDO WOOD, who opposes this bill, is that there is no necessity whatever for a sinking fund, and that all the Government has got to do is to apply its surplus revenues, if it has any, to the extinction of its debt, and if it has no surplus, to let its creditors do the best they can. That argument, if it has any weight, would apply just as well to the interest, and would be fatal to any tax bill at all. All that the Government would have to do, upon this theory, would be to apply whatever revenues it had to the payment of the interest, as far as they would go, and so make an end of the matter. The obligation to pay the interest is no greater than the obligation to pay one-hundredth of the principal annually. The two obligations go together, rest upon the same legal basis, and are parts of the same bargain. If we are bound to make provisions for one, we are in like manner bound to make provision for the other. The faith and credit of the nation may be nothing to Mr. WOOD and his political colleagues; but they are still sacred in the eyes of all who hold it dishonorable not to redeem a national promise. Even Mr. WOOD, reckless as he is, and demagogical as he can be when he chooses, would shrink from making default in the regular payment of the interest on the national debt; yet every consideration of public policy which prompts us to pay the interest with strict regularity and unfaltering persistence, must likewise prompt the payment of so much of the principal as we promised to pay when we borrowed it.

Taxation is not pleasant to bear; but national discredit is still harder to endure. The nation must redeem its pledges, and keep the promises under which it became a borrower. Whenever the emergency existed the people have, hitherto, submitted to whatever taxation was necessary to maintain the national credit with honor, and they will not shrink, now, from sustaining the Administration in its efforts to meet the obligations incurred in the hour of national peril.

THE proposition of the Union Pacific Railroad Company to compromise with the Government in settlement of the claims of the latter upon it, is an exceedingly modest one; but considering that the road is owned and run mainly by a New York Democrat, the modesty is not surprising.

The Government issued, for this road, bonds amounting to $27,000,000, bearing 6 per cent. interest, and having thirty years to run, the grand total, of principal and interest, reaching $76,000,000 at maturity. As security for this the Government has a second mortgage upon the road and the claim to 5 per cent. annually of its net earnings. The company refuses to pay this 5 per cent., alleging, first, that the road is not finished, and its net earnings are not to be computed until after it is finished; and, second, that the claim of the Government does not accrue until the bonds mature in 1895.

The company now proposes, in lieu of paying the 5 per cent. on net earnings for which the Government has sued it, to compromise the entire claim of the latter for debt and interest, and income from net earnings, by paying $500,000 annually, beginning in 1875, and continuing until 1895, when it will graciously increase the payment to $750,000. How long it would take to pay off the Government mortgage, at this rate, has not yet been figured out; but considering that the annual interest on the mortgage is now $1,620,000, the proposition to pay off debt and interest with half million annual payments must either mean that the Government is expected to scale its claim, and reduce it to a comparatively small amount, or that figures, in the hands of a New York railroad president, have a capacity for lying that cannot be equaled even by the figures of the New York *World's* arithmetic man.

As these Pacific railroads have persistently and consistently defied the Government, ever since its essential aid was freely given toward their construction, and as they now impudently refuse to carry out the contract on which that aid was obtained, it becomes the duty of the national authorities to close their ears to all offers of compromise, and to insist upon a literal compliance with the law by these creatures of the law. Let us see whether there is any power in the national courts to bring these corporations to book. The Government needs all the money it can get, just now; and it cannot afford to let these railroads, built by its bounty, dictate the niggardly terms upon which they will settle a very plain claim. If the Pacific railroad companies are stronger than it, and can say that they will pay it just what and when they choose, it is about time to make known the fact; and if not, let its strong arm be stretched out to exact, by force, what should have been yielded to it without a struggle.

THE card of Mr. WASHBURNE, our Minister at Paris, in reply to a slander of the New York *Sun* upon him, shows how little protection a man's record really affords him. Mr. WASHBURNE, according to the statement of his card, found, on his arrival at Paris in 1869, the bonds of the Southern and El Paso road upon the market, and FREMONT'S friends busily engaged in pressing them upon the attention of French capitalists. He at once exposed their fraudulent character, and advised the State Department about them. His correspondence was called for by Congress and printed. The parties who put the bonds on the market were furious with him for giving information as to their character, and FREMONT published a pamphlet on the subject arraigning him for discrediting a great American enterprise; yet, with all this excellent record in his favor, the New York *Sun* boldly charges him with having received ten thousand dollars for using his official influence in getting the FREMONT bonds placed upon the Paris Bourse! It is of no use, apparently, for a public man to be honest and upright. The more he does to keep his hands clean and his skirts clear, the more likely he is to be attacked by dishonesty and venality.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The puddle forge at the Rensselaer mills, at Troy, New York, will start up to-morrow.

Our State still makes one-half of the pig iron produced in the country, Ohio and New York coming next.

Great complaint is made in Kansas that relief goods are unfairly distributed. Deadbeats generally get the lion's share.

The Burden Iron Works of Troy advertised for puddlers to take the place of strikers, and are getting all they want.

A new Republican paper is to be started in Norwalk, Ohio, about the first of March, to be called the Huron County *Chronicle*.

Next to the Mont Cenis tunnel, the Hoosac is the longest in the world, being only 320 feet less than five miles in length.

Paine's "Age of Reason" has become a very favorite book among the Hindoos of late, says a writer from an Eastern mission.

Democratic Texas is educationally belated, only a little over one-fourth of its children of school age receiving instruction.

Our own Commonwealth leads all other States in applications under the free banking provisions of the last two finance acts of Congress.

If you don't like the weather you can go to Melbourne in Australia, where, at the latest dates, the thermometer was 112 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade.

The Delaware peach growers are moving for the remission of the tax of $5 in abundant seasons and $7 50 in scanty seasons, per car load of peaches.

The East India Government is profiting by the terrible warning of the famine to introduce a new system of irrigation. This question is one of great interest.

The Chicago Temperance Alliance is engaged in the very sensible business of trying to persuade employers not to pay off their men until Monday morning.

Over a million and a half of hogs have been killed and packed in Chicago thus far this season, and yet there is no perceptible diminution of the population.

There were 201 persons killed and 978 injured by railroad accidents in this country last year, against 276 and 1,283 in 1873. This is a decrease of about one-fourth.

Notwithstanding her prohibitory law Massachusetts proposes to establish an immense asylum for inebriates. The subject is under consideration by the Legislature.

A lucky Bostonian last week sold for about twenty-five thousand dollars an interest in a patent that was purchased by him, a few months ago, for six hundred dollars.

New York city has sued the National Broadway bank to recover the little amount of $6,804,000 claimed to have been paid out of the city's deposits without authority.

The Sacramento river is steadily losing its capacity as a navigable stream by being filled with the slum that comes from the mines. The harbor of San Diego is also filling up.

Wendell Phillips is a courageous man, but if he wants to be quite sure of dying a natural death he had better decline Senator Gordon's invitation to visit the Southern States.

The colored clergymen of the United States have appointed Monday, March 1st, a day for fasting and prayer for securing to the race the full enjoyment of the rights of citizenship.

The rapid increase in the Philadelphia grain trade may be inferred from the fact that 4,806,574 bushels were received last year via the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, an increase of 1,885,495 bushels over 1873.

An industrial missionary settlement is to be established on the borders of Lake Navassa, to be called Livingstonia, after the great African traveler. The prospects of the undertaking are said to be quite promising.

The San Francisco School Board don't think much of the Lord's Prayer. That body has just decided that Divine petition to be partisan and sectarian, and the use of it in the schools contrary to the spirit of the school law.

There is to be started in March, at Scottsville, Allen county, Kentucky, a journal to be called the *Argus*, which will be the first newspaper ever published in that county. And yet Allen has been a county ever since 1815.

PERSONAL.

Major J. W. Powell, of Colorado fame, has had an offer of $10,000 for a year's work in the lecture field.

Miss Sterling, an American contralto, has become a great favorite in England. She has a sterling voice, and of course there must be money in it, at the present rate of exchange.

Abe Bunter, the colored resident of Williamstown, Mass., whose ram-like or bunting propensities gave him his nick-name, and whose obituary is now being extensively circulated throughout the country, has taken it upon himself to deny the report of his death.

A somewhat singular coincidence in the matter of names will be noticeable in the Senate of the Forty-fourth Congress. There will be two Camerons, two Jones', and two Morrills, and, with the exception of a *t*, two Johnsons: Senator Johnston, of Virginia, and Senator Johnson, of Tennessee.

The American revivalists, Messrs. Moody and Sankey, are carrying everything before them in England. At Sheffield they lagged no less than 604 converts, and at Manchester they received the unqualified public approbation of the Bishop of the diocese. They are now at Birmingham, on their way to London, where great preparations are being made for their reception. So far their march has been a series of successes.

Mrs. Minnie Sherman-Fitch visited the New York Custom House on Saturday, and inspected her gift from the Khedive. A large party of friends attended her, and the young bride arrayed herself in the glittering diamonds to the admiration and delight of those around her. The Collector's parlor was slightly darkened, so that the full effect of the gems was seen, and after all eyes were sated, the costly necklace was returned to the Collector's safe.

The trial of John D. Lee, who is charged with devising and carrying into execution the terrible Mountain Meadow massacre seventeen years ago, in Utah, will take place during the April term of the Second District Court at Beaver, Utah. Since Lee's arrest he charges the whole infamy of the slaughter of the emigrants upon other Mormon prophets. It is believed that the trial will show the active participation of the whole Mormon hierarchy in the massacre.

The Free Pipe Bill—Views of an Oil Operator.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

As an oil producer, I was glad to see your paper open its columns to an article in regard to the free pipe bill extension to Allegheny county. It is a notorious fact that the railroad men have combined to put an extortionate freight on oil, and further have so discriminated as to render it impossible for a producer to ship his own oil or to sell the same in the East at any price. A prominent producer shipped a lot to New York which he had pumped from his own wells, sold the same at New York prices, and after deducting freight expense he had sold his oil for nothing, and was in debt for freight and transportation a considerable sum for each barrel shipped; and yet these railroads are common carriers, asking protection from the republic of the "Pittsburgh Board of Trade" and the producers at large.

As a producer, I have now a small well yielding an average of eight barrels per day, at the following rates: Expense of pumping, eighty-five dollars per month, or three dollars per day average. Previous to the October rates, a small profit was realized even with the tax of freight lines, etc. During October, November and December the well ran in debt steadily, though the wells are by no means "well handled." The fall in production during January has made her remunerative again, and my hopes that the free pipe bill would take off a part of the tax on oil has made me come to consider that I might possibly get my own out of the enterprise yet. Mark, if you please, the tax put on the well by the railroad companies: They pay $1 25 freight to New York, and sells at seven and a half cents per gallon: oil pays eighty cents freight from Pittsburgh to Baltimore, and sells at seven and one-half cents per gallon, leaving a difference of ninety-five cents per barrel discrimination against me, or eight dollars and fifty-five cents tax paid to the combination directly against my interest. It may be said that the difference is in the pipe lines. I do not think so. I ship oil from another well in the Conduit, and pay no more than in other lines. All that producers ask is that the Pittsburgh markets shall be as free for crude as for grain or any other staple, and that we shall be freed from a tax or toll of one hundred per cent. on the value of our staple to keep it out of the Pittsburgh market.

PRODUCER.

IRON AND STEEL.

Proceedings of the American Iron and Steel Association—State and Prospects of Business—Interesting and Instructive Figures.

The American Iron and Steel Association held its annual meeting in Philadelphia on the 12th inst. The President, Mr. Samuel J. Reeves, delivered an address in which he referred to the points of the report of the Secretary, Mr. Swank, as follows:

"The decline in the world's demand for iron which commenced in 1873 has continued during 1874, and with the decline in demand there has ensued a resulting fall in prices. In all the iron producing countries less iron has been made in 1874 than was made in either 1872 or 1873. The reaction in 1874 has been as general and decided as the advance in 1872 was unexpected and bewildering. It has been felt most severely in the United States, but in the United Kingdom and in France and Germany the iron industry has been so much depressed all through the year, that many iron works have been closed and many others have been employed only a part of the time. In the United Kingdom the depression was very marked at the close of the year, and in some branches of the iron trade the demand was nearly as low on the 1st of February. Fully one-half of all the furnaces in the country were, therefore, out of blast on the 1st of February, a degree of depression more than has been extremely discouraging and embarrassing. In the summer of 1873 it became evident that the demand for iron was decreasing, that consumers were not taking so many rails as formerly, and pig iron was beginning to accumulate at the furnaces. When the panic occurred, on the 18th of September, 1873, the country was producing and importing more iron than it was consuming. Had the panic not occurred, prices would have continued to follow the downward tendency already inaugurated, and both production and importation must have gradually decreased during 1874. But the panic precipitated a more sweeping result. Prices fell rapidly after September, and before the close of the year many furnaces and rolling mills had been stopped. Importation also declined, but not with sufficient rapidity to prevent further depression in the domestic iron trade during the winter and succeeding spring months. On the 1st of January this association definitely ascertained the situation of the 666 completed furnaces of the country to be as follows: In blast, 369; out of blast, 297. On the same date it ascertained that more than one-half of the rail mills of the country were wholly idle, while others were running only a part of the time.

"Our imports of iron and steel, and manufactures thereof, during the fiscal years of 1872, 1873 and 1874, are given in the following table:

Fiscal year ended June 30.	Value of Iron imported.	Value of Steel imported.	Total Iron and Steel.
1872	$41,959,843	$12,380,313	$55,340,156
1873	42,682,574	16,815,878	59,498,452
1874	46,872,610	14,840,813	61,713,423

"During the two calendar years 1872 and 1873 the total exports of commodities, the growth, produce, and manufacture of the United States, aggregated the following sums: 1872, $697,194,069; 1873, $677,523,921. The exports of iron and steel, and their manufactures during these two years, were as very nearly as practicable equal to imports, being respectively, as shown in the table, only $14,359,717, and $16,687,751, including agricultural implements, fire arms, articles manufactured or partly composed only in part of iron and steel."

The following extract refers to the production of Bessemer steel in this country, and will be a piece of general information: "There are eight Bessemer steel and steel rail establishments in this country which are now in operation, and two others are being built. There are also seven iron establishments to go into operation was that of the Bethlehem Iron Company, which made its first blow on Saturday, October 4, 1873, and rolled the first steel rail on Saturday, October 11, 1873. The two Bessemer works now being built are those of the Edgar Thomson Steel Company, located near Pittsburgh, nearly completed, and those of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, at Scranton, in process of erection. The total annual capacity of the eight completed establishments is fully 250,000 tons of steel."

The Secretary read a supplementary business report, in which he said:

"Of the 369 furnaces in blast on stacks in the country, 472 had reported to the association up to the 10th of February instant their condition on the 1st of January last. Of these 124 stacks, 200 were blown out on the 1st and 212 were out of blast. In addition to these 212 out of blast, 37 of the 250 then in blast were announced to be blown out in January. While would at the United States on February 249 furnaces out of blast, 223 in blast, and 254 to be heard from. Of the 223 not reporting, it is entirely safe to assume that one-half, 200 were blown out on the 1st of February. Fully one-half of all the furnaces in the country were, therefore, out of blast on the 1st of February, a degree of depression more than has been extremely discouraging and embarrassing since the beginning of the panic. The 472 reporting stacks are classified as follows:

"Anthracite—In blast January 1, 105; out of blast, 76; to be blown out, 8; total, 178 stacks.

"Bituminous—In blast January 1, 59; out of blast, 69; to be blown out, 9; total, 128 stacks.

"Charcoal—In blast January 1, 93; out of blast, 71; to be blown out, 20; total, 164 stacks.

"Mixed fuels—In blast January 1, 3; out of blast, 2; total, 5 stacks.

"The 472 reporting stacks return an aggregate of 450,970 tons of pig iron as *unsold* on the 1st of January last, of which 184,930 tons were anthracite, 160,990 tons were bituminous coal and coke, 150,197 tons were mixed anthracite and coke, and 4,853 tons were charcoal. We omit any estimate of the probable quantity of pig iron unsold on the 1st day of January by the 197 furnaces out of blast, but would add that of these furnaces 40 were anthracite, 55 were bituminous coal and coke, 128 were charcoal, and 3 were mixed fuels.

"The membership of the association now embraces one hundred and eighty-seven individuals and corporations, representing twenty-one States, and including the Centennial Commission. No less than seventy-seven individuals and corporations, representing twenty-one States, have contributed to the maintenance of this association. It was stated that its credit was good, and has taken it upon himself to deny the report of his death.

"The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in this time of depression and prolonged depression of the country's industries it is more than ever the duty of the Government to show, by its acts, an earnest sympathy with the workingman, who, through no fault of their own, are thrown out of employment, lest their discontent, aggravated by its indifference, should weaken those bonds of social and civil order which are the foundation of our republican institutions.

Resolved, That the national credit must be maintained inviolate, and no plea of party advantage, and no temporizing policy, must be suffered to deepen the present national distress by an apprehension of national bankruptcy. In order that all the obligations of the Government may be scrupulously met, we hold that such additional revenue as is necessary should be promptly and fearlessly exacted by the present Congress, such revenue to be drawn as far as possible by taxes upon luxuries, and by import duties upon those foreign manufactures which compete with the products of our own laboring people.

Resolved, That the recently detected frauds upon the revenue at New York, effected by undervaluations of silk and other dutiable goods, or by smuggling large quantities of such goods through the Custom House without any valuation, demonstrate the advantage of the greater vigilance which has lately been exercised by Government officials in the Customs Department, and also suggest the propriety of erecting new safeguards by legislation and by suitable appointments to office to prevent or detect similar frauds in the future.

Resolved, That the opinion of this association the national credit may properly be granted, under suitable restrictions, to aid in the construction of one or more of the trans-continental railroad lines which have been already in part constructed by private enterprise. Such aid would not only be a most efficient means of reinstating the activity of industry throughout the country, but would also relieve the Government from charges of sustaining a monopoly, and would doubtless be not only unattended by any outlay of money, but would also effect large savings in Government expenditures.

A resolution in respect to the memory of Captain E. B. Ward, First Vice President of the association, recently deceased, was offered by Mr. G. B. Stebbins, and adopted.

The meeting then adjourned.

OHIO NEWS.

The small-pox has broken out at Logan.

A Madison county Granger has a 240 acre cornfield.

Ichabod Jones, of Noble county, is 103 years old.

The fat hogs of Union county have nearly all been marketed.

There is no hope for the peach crop in the region about Lancaster.

In the township of Marietta, Washington county, there are 201 persons over seventy years of age.

Rev. J. M. Frazier, of Oberlin, will soon assume the postorate of the Congregational church at Mecca, Trumbull county.

The grand jury of Columbiana county has pronounced the county jail defective, and recommended the building of a new one.

Mr. James Stewart, one of the oldest and most highly esteemed residents of Wellsville, died on the 10th inst., aged seventy-one years.

The new Methodist Episcopal church at Tiffin—St. Paul's—will be dedicated on Sunday, the 21st inst., Bishop Foster will preach the dedicatory sermon.

Isaac Hay, breaking his leg by a fall from a fence, near Columbus, dragged himself a mile and a half over the frozen ground before he reached human aid.

Miss Alice Martin, of Bridgeport, died on the 12th inst., from the effects of an abortion, produced in Steubenville, a few days before. No arrests have yet been made.

The London *Enterprise* says: John Wildman, residing near Selma, has lost about one hundred head of hogs by cholera recently. The hogs were purchased of a party in Highland county.

The Board of Trustees of Muskingum College, at Zanesville, want to transfer the control of that institution to some denomination, and negotiations to this end are pending with the United Presbyterian Synod of Ohio. The guaranty desired is $40,000.

Driven to desperation by the scarcity of news, the Youngstown *Register* tells of a chicken that got frozen solid, up to its neck, in a mud-puddle, where it remained all night; but on being discovered the next day and dug out, it became lively as ever and now calmly paws the dunghill as of yore.

Charles Dryden, son to the County Treasurer of Montgomery county, is said to have stolen from the Treasurer's safe a package containing $5,000, and in company with two other young men decamped. Mr. Dryden had the utmost confidence in his son, gave him a position in his office and allowed him a good salary.

S. S. Campbell, of Cadiz, a well-known fine wool grower, recently sold to H. P. Sellers and S. H. Welles, of New Lexington, Perry county, ten ewes at $60 each, one at $110, and one at $50. He also sold to W. Ida Law, a neighbor of Sellers, four ewes at $75 each, making in all sixteen head, for the sum of $1,150.

STATE NEWS.

Rev. W. B. Raber, pastor of the United Brethren church in York, died last week.

Over eighty persons have joined the Methodist church in Tidioute this winter.

The will of Henry S. Stout, of Philadelphia, bequeaths $76,400 for charitable and religious uses.

Fifty-nine towns and villages are situated along the line of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

Nicholas Drumheller, of Jackson township, Northumberland county, says he made a pair of shoes that were worn twenty-one years.

The Wilkesbarre authorities have voted an appropriation of 600 loaves of bread, which number is distributed among the poor of the city three days in each week.

Dr. E. Lloyd Howard, of Baltimore, has brought suit against Chester county for $100 for assistance in the rescue of his blankets, wagons, etc., burned at the murder of Winfield Scott Goss by Udderzook.

A few days ago a young man named Fix, residing on the Shepard Ellis farm, in Mead township, Crawford county, says the Crawford *Journal*, left the house for the woods, where he spent the afternoon in chopping. Not returning at dark, his family became alarmed, and instituted search for him. He was found about thirty rods from the house dead, although the body was still warm. The ax was lying on one side and a large sapling, weighing about a hundred pounds, which he had been carrying on his shoulder, upon the other side. There was a deep gash on the forehead. Death was undoubtedly the result of a concussion of the brain. In crossing a piece of ice, slipped and fell, the pole which he was carrying on his shoulder striking the head with such force as to cause almost instant death. The deceased leaves a wife, two children and a mother, all dependent upon him for support.

Pollution of Rivers.

The English Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the pollution of rivers, state in their fifth report, recently issued, that they have met with some remarkable instances of the effect of lead mining upon the condition or the rivers and streams flowing into Cardigan Bay. The water, whitened by the waste of the mines, is turbid, and flood waters bring down poisonous slimes which, spreading over the adjoining flats, either befoul or destroy the grass, and thus injure cattle and horses grazing on the dirtied herbage. By so killing the plants whose roots have held the land together, render the shores more liable to abrasion and destruction on the next occasion of high water. On the estate of Mr. Lewis Pugh, of Aberayron, on the river Ystwith, a wide margin of riverside land was thus washed away; an embankment has been raised along the Aberystwith line for the protection of the estate, and it is itself protected by staked and wattled barriers as offsets into the river channel. The land has been leveled and ridged behind this embankment by cartage of earth, and afterwards a heavy dressing of lime has been required, beyond the ordinary costs of cultivation, before it could again be put into the hands of a rent-paying tenant. The landlord has, in fact, thus more than rebought his land, his tenants, too, and the occupiers of all the riverside property in the neighborhood, tell of cattle killed and horses paralyzed and broken-winded, owning the feeding on the befouled grass. The evidence taken by the commissioners, and it is the same as to the great loss thus occasionally inflicted on the generally small farmers who occupy these riverside lands through the mine-owners neglecting to keep their poisonous refuse matters out of the river channels. In the north of England no such complaints are made; in some cases the body of water into which the refuse flows is so large that the mischievous influence is lost; in others the valleys are wider, and there is ample space for the storage of waste materials, and the mountain which may be occasionally overflowed by the muddy waters is of comparatively little value.

Female Smugglers.

(From a New York Letter.)

The famous Mary Ann Boker, the rich man's daughter, who years ago married her coachman, John Dean, is one of the lady Custom House examiners. Some time ago a passenger off a French ship was suspected of having a quantity of diamonds to get through, and on the dock she was told she must be examined. The girl protested. It was no use. So, turning to her fellow-passengers, she bade them a tender adieu. The warm embraces she bestowed on one lady was touching; she kissed her, not once, but thrice, and with each kiss she gave into her friend's keeping a solitaire worth $3,000. Then she went off with a whole mouthful, which she would have swallowed like so many pills rather than disgorge. As she afterwards explained, those awful big stones impeded her utterance, and she intended giving the Custom House people a piece of her mind. And thus she was enabled to do so, thanks to her own ingenuity and her friend's mouth.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

A Letter from Bruceport—Character of the Land and Its Capabilities—Advice to Colonies Seeking a Settlment.

The following letter to Mr. Wm. McDonald, concering Washington Territory, is published by request:

BRUCEPORT, PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON TERRITORY, 1874.

DEAR SIR: Your highly valued letter of inquiry has come to hand, and I take great pleasure in answering your inquiries about this country. In addition to the inducements of good vacant Government lands around Gray's Harbor and Shoalwater Bay (immediately south of it), the great amount and excellent qualities of the timber, easy of access, and also the safety of those capacious harbors, with their many navigable rivers having good entrances from the Pacific Ocean, a colony of two hundred families, such as you represent, can be so located as to command the whole of the future trade of these two great basins and all their tributary streams. I came here nearly three years ago to locate a colony, and selected some lands upon both Shoalwater Bay and Gray's Harbor, projecting a line of settlements extending from the Columbia river to the Chehalis river, along the eastern shore of Shoalwater Bay, covering the mouths of all the rivers; the Nacolle, the two Nemas, the Palix, the Querquilan, the Willopa, and up the valley of North river and Trinity creek to the Chehalis river, a distance of nearly forty miles, along which line five hundred families can make good, comfortable homes, and such settlements would necessarily create three commercial towns of no small importance within ten miles of the ocean. The colony I then represented, who were about to be ejected from their homes in Kansas, have since defeated the railroad company that claimed their lands, and they now prefer staying where they are, which leaves me the undesigning owner of several thousand acres of excellent lands in this almost uninhabited country, which I greatly desire should be settled up speedily. Within as near as $30,000 to $40,000 per mile, and the $50,000,000 aforesaid would build from 1,200 to 1,500 miles of such road and twice that number of merely mineral roads. * * to foot up three-fourths, or perhaps nine-tenths, of the money brought from abroad to carry on such work, so the settlers will be greatly benefited by being where the money will be disbursed.

Another project: I design to give the colony profitable employment until they will be fully established, is opening a canal through from the Chehalis river to Gray's Harbor, through Shoalwater Bay, which their united votes at elections would authorize, and which will also greatly enhance the value of their lands, and give additional facilities for markets. And in addition to the above, the votes of two hundred settlers can reconstruct the county, create new roads, and all the county seats upon lands they can now take as homesteads, or pre-empt at one dollar and a quarter per acre, which, by judicious selection, will be a handsome profit to such colony. It is very important that these several town sites should be secured before the speculators can get their harpers from seizing the most eligible places. I would most respectfully suggest that you come alone, or bring only a few men or four (prepare every man in your colony at most with you, to examine the feasibility of my projects, and if approved, secure the town sites by the necessary filings at the land office, and purchase the interests of some parties that are objectionably near those valuable spots, before the least hint of the speculating shall be given out, as every precaution may save thousands of money to the colony, and prevent lazy, unworthy men from making fortunes upon other men's labor.

The chief business for a colony to engage in will be lumbering, to employ those of the colony that will have to work for wages, and to give a contract to some party, or those who will engage in agriculture, to utilize the immense quantities of excellent fir, spruce and cedar timber, and the navigable waters in the prosecution of which is the best market for lumber isin Mexico and South America, where raw hides are cheap, the lumber can be exchanged for raw hides, which, with cheap tanning bark, will enable the colony to engage in tanning leather upon a large scale, to utilize the hemlock, that constitutes about half the timber in the forests here, and *is of more value where else on the Pacific coast.* The colony should have capital enough to do their own transportation and be their own merchants. This will enable them to build warehouses and the concomitants of wharves, all kinds of workshops, accompanied, of course, by dwelling houses and private residences that will create a town, a city, indeed a world in minature, as churches, schools, libraries, lyceums and the arts and sciences of civilization, society and science will be planted in the wilderness.

The above are some of the reasons for my preference for this part of the Pacific coast over all other places, after having traveled *through all the West*, consuming more than two years' time in making examinations of comparative advantages, and these are the inducements for a colony to come and settle here that are visible to the most casual observer. But envy among the unsuccessful of mankind, and that which must always be attributed to this country as its crowning excellence, is its climate—the uniform temperature of the winters and summers, and its wonderful healthiness.

This country is timbered, hills vary in height from fifty to five hundred feet; very little underbrush to impede the chopping. Not a stone on the coast. There are numerous streams, all of which have rich bottom lands. The largest streams vary from six hundred to a thousand feet in width, and from forty to fifty miles in the length of navigable water, and from five to fifteen miles in the distance from their mouth to the Pacific Ocean. The prairie is "the bane of the marsh, subject to overflow by "high tides." These lands can be reclaimed by dykes at a cost of less than five dollars per acre in most places, and when completely protected from "salt water" is the best farming land in the world. The fish are of many kinds, from the sardine, that takes twenty to weigh a pound, to the sturgeon that sometimes weighs a hundred